

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An enhancer of anticancer activity in viral therapy, comprising interleukin as an effective component, wherein the enhancer is administered 5 systemically and is used in combination with a recombinant herpes simplex virus that selectively replicates in cancer cells.
2. The enhancer according to claim 1, wherein the interleukin is interleukin 18.
3. The enhancer according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the anticancer activity 10 comprises eliciting antitumor immunity.
4. The enhancer according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the γ 34.5 gene and ICP6 gene of the recombinant herpes simplex virus have been deleted or inactivated.
5. The enhancer according to claim 4, wherein the ICP47 gene of the 15 recombinant herpes simplex virus has also been deleted or inactivated.
6. The enhancer according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein a gene coding for interleukin 12 has been inserted expressibly in the genomic DNA of the recombinant herpes simplex virus.
7. A method of preventing or treating cancer, comprising the co- 20 administration of interleukin and a recombinant herpes simplex virus that selectively replicates in cancer cells.
8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the interleukin is interleukin 18.
9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the interleukin 18 is 25 administered systemically.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein interleukin 12 is additionally administered locally at a tumor tissue.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein a gene coding for interleukin 12 has been inserted expressibly in the genomic DNA of the recombinant herpes simplex virus.

12. The method according to any of claims 7 to 11, wherein the γ 34.5 gene and ICP6 gene of the recombinant herpes simplex virus have been deleted or inactivated.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the ICP47 gene of the recombinant herpes simplex virus has also been deleted or inactivated.

14. The method according to any of claims 7 to 13, wherein the method of preventing or treating cancer is a method of preventing or treating cancer at a location outside the tumor tissue inoculated with the recombinant herpes simplex virus.

15. An agent for treating or preventing cancer, wherein the agent contains recombinant herpes simplex virus that selectively replicates in cancer cells and the agent is administered by injection within a tumor tissue in combination with the systemic administration of interleukin 18, and wherein the γ 34.5 gene and ICP6 gene of the recombinant herpes simplex virus have been deleted or inactivated and a gene coding for interleukin 12 has been inserted as an expressible construct in the genomic DNA of the recombinant herpes simplex virus.

16. The agent according to claim 15 for treating or preventing cancer, wherein the ICP47 gene of the recombinant herpes simplex virus has also been deleted or inactivated.